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EDITORIAL NOTES.

Change of Form.—At the request of many of those most interested in **THE HEBREW STUDENT**, it has been decided to change its form. We trust that the change will be agreeable to all. The present form, as will be seen, is more expensive. The necessity of using better paper increases considerably the cost. We issue this month a 32 page number. It will be increased to 48 pages if the sympathy of those who ought to aid in such an enterprise, shall be accorded us. The continuance of **THE HEBREW STUDENT** is no longer a question; it remains to be seen, however, whether the friends of Old Testament learning will render that aid and encouragement which are necessary to make it what it ought to be in respect to size and quality. The regular subscription already numbers nearly *one thousand*. It ought to be three thousand within a year from the date of issue of the first number. The low rate of subscription renders it impossible to pay a commission which will justify any one in entering upon the work of canvassing for it. This work must be done by its friends. There is not a subscriber who could not, if he were so minded, send a list of three to ten additional names. Is there any reason why you should not do this? *Will you not do it?*

Another Professor Of Hebrew At Harvard.—We understand that David G. Lyon, Ph. D., has been chosen as assistant Instructor in Hebrew and the Semitic languages at Harvard University. It is whispered that Dr. Lyon is a former favorite pupil of Dr. Toy. Mr. Lyon is a man of iron industry who, in closing his period of special study at the University of Leipzig, submitted as a thesis on his application for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, the Assyrian text of Sargon re-edited with notes. The thesis bore traces of originality and diligent research on every page, and has already called forth high commendations from prominent oriental Scholars. It is known at Leipzig that Dr. Lyon is in high favor with Professor Friedrich Delitzsch, the Assyriologist. The management of Harvard University is to be congratulated on the accession of Dr. Lyon to the working force of one of the oldest of American Colleges. What other American Colleges, following the lead of this advance step of Harvard University, will make provision for a more generous and thorough study within the Semitic field? Any changes in this direction are to be hailed with satisfaction.

Wellhausen.—Julius Wellhausen has just published a book which gives the results of his studies as to the life and work of Muhammed. This prophet calls forth terms of exalted praise. His work, as compared with that of the founder of the Christian religion, receives very favorable consideration.

The book is specially noteworthy, however, as marking a decided change in the plans and work of this unquestionably able scholar whose writings have so greatly stirred the theological world, in these latter days. It is a purely philological study which is here undertaken. The author speaks of it in this manner and alludes to the fact that it is a change from his theological labors. It is understood that not

alone in his publications but in his University work as well, Theology has been abandoned for Philology, pure and simple. The chair of Theology at Greifswald is to be exchanged for an assistant's position (*Professor extraordinarius*) at Halle, where he will lecture on Orientalia, as a member of the Philosophical Faculty. This step is regarded by many as but the logical outcome of Wellhausen's writings. Having assailed the foundations of theology till many of the most valued positions had seemed to him untenable, he could not as an honorable man and consistent logician continue to teach that which was expected in a Theological faculty. In going to Halle, he finds a larger, more famous school, but is given a place of lower rank. His future course will doubtless be watched with undiminished interest. Will he go still farther away from all that is theological?

Summer Study.—Is it true that only superficial, slipshod work is done at "Summer Schools?" An impression of this kind is very general, and indeed many claim that only this kind of work *can* be done. That there is abundant ground for this impression is undeniable. There are facts which seem to go far in establishing it; yet care must be taken not to generalize too hastily. In Hebrew, for instance, will any one say that the work done under Dr. James Strong, at Chautauqua, or that under Dr. Willis J. Beecher, at Asbury Park, was not of the very highest order? It ought in fairness, however, to be said, that in two other places where it was professed to teach this language, the work was of a most deplorable character. It must be confessed that the chances for doing a reasonable amount of a reasonable quality of work at a place of summer resort, are less than for doing the same in College or University; for (1) men go to these places professedly to seek rest, not to work; and (2) the multitudinous variety of entertainments, which the managers arrange for the purpose of drawing crowds, tends greatly to distract and disturb those whose desire it is to study. Yet it cannot be questioned for a moment that good work *can* be, and *is* being done. Two facts bearing on this point deserve recognition: (1) *as a rule* only the *best* talent is employed to give instruction. Now no one will deny that a first-rate teacher will accomplish far more, in both quality and quantity, even under the most disadvantageous circumstances, than a second-rate or third-rate teacher, under circumstances the most favorable. (2) Summer School students work voluntarily. They come to receive instruction, because in their regular work they have felt the need of that instruction which they now have the opportunity of obtaining. They are, for the most part, men and women of ability, with whom it is a principle to make the most of everything that presents itself. They come hungry for the information which is offered. Will not such students work in spite of distraction and disturbance? Let it be granted that superficial work is done in many of the so-called Summer Schools, in just as many Colleges and Theological Seminaries *proportionately* is the work, which is done, a farce, if judged by any true standard.

The True Massoretic Text.—One hindrance in the way of accomplishing the task that belongs to the science of the Textual Criticism of the Old Testament, is the fact that, as yet, the true Massoretic Text has not been finally determined.